Manufacture of Electronic Telephone Exchanges

666. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a project to manufacture Electronic Telephone Exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, whether the locations, etc. have since been finalised; and

(c) by when the proposed project is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) M/s. ndian Telephone Industries Limited, a public sector unit is already engaged in the manufacture of large electronic telephone exchanges at their Mankapur unit in U.P. and Palghat unit in Kerala. M/s. ITI have also been issued a letter of intent for the manufacture of large electronic telephone exchanges at Bangalore and they are in the process of setting up the unit.

Indigenous Development of Technology for the LCA

667 SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to buy from abroad the technology required for the production of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), instead of developing that technology indigenously;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the details of schemes drawn up to produce such aircraft in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) will be developed indigenously pooling all resources available within the country. However, limited assistance will be availed from abroad in the areas of advanced technologies which are not available indigenously.

(b) There have been no major combat aircraft development programmes in the country during the last two decades and in the meantime major technological advances have taken place. In order to ensure that the LCA will be a contemporary aircraft when it gets inducted into service, it is necessary to acquire and absorb selected advanced technologies from abroad.

(c) Many of the capabilities and capacities existing in several national agencies are being marshalled effectively to fulfil the objectives of the LCA programme A dedicated society called the Aeronautical Development Agency has been formed to orchestrate various activities relating to the LCA programme. Advanced technologies and related data-base not available indigenously are being judiciously obtained from advanced countries. At present, the Project Definition Phase (PDP) activities are going on. This Phase will last till July 1988 and is being executed with M/s. Avions Marcel Dassault—Barguet Aviation (AMD-BA) as the Prime Consultant. Parallel activities to meet the prototype manufacture and testing in various work centres in India are being planned.